

## Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 IO-10 /084 W

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R 280730Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6999

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USCINCEUR

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 3619

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT

SUBJECT: YEMENI INTERNAL SITUATION

1. ON DEC 25 FONMIN AL-ASNAJ TOLE ME THAT FOLLOWING  
PRESIDENT HAMD'S TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA, THE INTERNAL  
SITUATION IN YEMEN HAS MARKEDLY IMPROVED, PARTICULARLY IN  
THE NORTHERN PART OF THE COUNTRY WHERE SHAIKH AL-AHMAR HAD  
EARLIER BEEN TRYING TO RALLY TRIBAL SUPPORT AGAINST THE  
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

2. ASNAJ CONTINUED THAT UPON ARRIVING IN SANA WITH  
PRESIDENT HAMD FROM JIDDA, SHAIKH AHMAR ASKED PERMISSION  
TO GO TO KHAMR WHERE MANY OF HIS FAMILY AND TRIBAL  
FRIENDS WERE WAITING TO WELCOME HIM BACK FROM THE HAJ.  
AHMAR ALSO ASKED PRESIDENT HAMD IF SEVERAL  
CABINET MINISTERS MIGHT ACCOMPANY HIM IN ORDER TO  
DEMONSTRATE VISIBLY TO THE TRIBES THE RECONCILIATION  
WHICH HAS OCCURRED BETWEEN AHMAR AND HAMD. THE  
PRESIDENT GAVE HIM PERMISSION AND ASKED DEPUTY PRIME  
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MINISTER YAHYA JEGHMAN AND ASNAJ TO ACCOMPANY AHMAR.

THE PRESIDENT WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN HAVING ASNAJ GO TO KHAMR BECAUSE OF AHMAR'S EARLIER ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ASNAJ OF LEFTIST TENDENCIES.

3. ASNAJ JOKINGLY SAID THAT HE AND JEGHMAN WERE SOMEWHAT AFRAID FOR THEIR LIVES TO GO WITH AHMAR BUT DID SO REALIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF DEMONSTRATING TO THE TRIBES THAT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT HAS NO EVIL INTENTIONS AGAINST THEM. DURING THE MEETINGS IN KHAMR ASNAJ AND JEGHMAN EMPHASIZED THAT YEMEN IS BIG ENOUGH FOR ALL YEMENIS AND THAT THE IMPORTANT THING NOW IS FOR ALL YEMENIS TO COOPERATE TO BUILD A STRONG CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CAPABLE OF BRINGING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BENEFITS FOR ALL. ASNAJ STATED THAT THE BRIBES ACCEPTED THESE WORDS WITH OBVIOUS PLEASURE AND THAT AS A RESULT THEY HAVE ALL DISPERSED TO THEIR HOMES. AHMAR NOW PLANS TO RETURN TO SANA IN A FEW DAYS.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH ASNAJ IS AN URBAN POLITICIAN, HE REALIZES THE NEED TO BRING THE TRIBAL AND TRADITIONAL ELEMENTS INTO THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS IN YEMEN, GIVEN YEMEN'S CONTINUED ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PRIMITIVENESS. HE HAS RECENTLY BEEN URGING HAMDI TO ESTABLISH SOME INSTITUTION TO REPLACE THE MAJLIS AL-SHURA AND HAS RECOMMENDED THE FORMATION OF A LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WITH CLEARLY DEFINED RESPONSIBILITIES AND WITH AHMAR AT ITS HEAD. ASNAJ SEES SUCH A COUNCIL AS THE BEST WAY TO SATISFY THE TRIBAL SHAIKHS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME PROVIDING A "SAFETY VALVE" FOR THE REGIME.  
SCOTES

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